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REGIONAL APPROACH TO DISARMAMENT WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBAL SECURITY

Working paper submitted by Austria

In the light of the close interrelationship between regional and global dimensions of peace, security, arms control and disarmament questions, it seems possible to start off with identifying principal areas of common understanding, whereby the "Chairman's non-paper" could serve as a guideline. In this context, the following objectives and principles might be taken into consideration with the understanding that experiences gained in one region might not automatically serve as examples for other regions:

- Respect for the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter and their continuing application in the regional context;

- Responsibility shared by all countries of a given region to contribute to the achievement of durable peace and security in their region;

- Identification of common regional security interests and their possible institutionalization in the form of regional security structures;

- Enhancement of regional security and cooperation on subjects of common interest in the regional context, such as sharing of tasks, prior information on undertakings of a regional dimension, definition of principles of security, distribution of resources, human settlement questions, etc.

- Agreements/arrangements for peaceful settlement of disputes;

- Implementation of confidence-building in the regional context, such as exchange of information, observance of military manoeuvres, etc. and their possible institutionalization on a permanent basis;

- Assurance of verifiability and reliability of any information provided for under regional forms of exchange of information;

- Financial and economic implications of regional confidence- and security-building for the respective region as a whole;

- Confidence- and security-building among different regions, based on the principle of non-interference in internal affairs;

- Comprehensive approach to security also in the regional context, e.g. prosperity, development, political stability and the protection of the environment.